

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF – NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014**  
Prepared on October 21, 2014

**ITEM NUMBER:** 15

**SUBJECT:** **Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program: Water Board Review of Central Coast Groundwater Coalition's Drinking Water Notification Process**

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**KEY INFORMATION:**

Location: Region-Wide  
Type of Discharge: Irrigated Lands Runoff / Leaching to Groundwater  
Existing Orders: Order No. RB3-2012-0011 and WQ 2013-0101

**THIS ACTION:** **Continuation of July 2014 Board Meeting Item 13 - Board Review Regarding the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition's Disclosure of Individual Notification Letters and Individual Follow-Up Action Information**

**Verification of Drinking Water Notifications**

This supplemental sheet informs the Board of actions that Central Coast Water Board staff has initiated to verify that proper drinking water notification of domestic well users with unsafe levels of nitrate is occurring for wells sampled in accordance with the Agricultural Order and associated Monitoring and Reporting Programs (MRPs). As of Oct. 10, 2014, the Water Board has issued ~117 drinking water notification letters to individual growers and landowners who have one or more domestic drinking water wells which exceed the drinking water standard – some have multiple groundwater wells with exceedances. Similarly, the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) issued ~194 drinking water notification letters to CCGC members.

In October, Water Board staff began follow-up audits with growers who complied with individual monitoring requirements to verify drinking water notifications. The follow-up actions included site visits to confirm that the following has occurred:

- Domestic drinking water well users, farm operators, and property owners received proper written notification that the well(s) exceeded drinking water standard for nitrate and informing them of the associated public health threat;
- The domestic drinking water well is properly posted warning potential users of the unsafe drinking water;
- Whether the method for providing alternative drinking water supply to users is consistent with what is reported to the Water Board (e.g., treatment or bottled water), if relevant.

At this time, staff is evaluating the results of the completed site visits and plans to continue site visits to verify drinking water notifications for growers and landowners who complied with individual groundwater monitoring requirements. In addition, staff also plans to conduct similar site visits to verify drinking water notifications for CCGC members.

### **Manner of Drinking Water Notification**

Well users need written documentation of any drinking water exceedance so that they are fully informed and can follow-up in the future, if necessary. In addition, well users need written documentation of the drinking water exceedance to pass on to other users, if necessary. While conducting site visits, Water Board staff confirmed that growers and/or landowners provided written notification to the well user(s).

Attachment 2 to the staff report (Table of CCGC Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Report) indicates that the "manner of notification" for some CCGC members is only verbal. Verbal notifications are insufficient to properly document notification of domestic well users of exceedances of drinking water standards. Staff will follow-up with the CCGC to clarify that written drinking water notification is required.